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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE RESPONSE: BURMESE PARTICIPATION IN
EU-ASEAN AND OTHER UPCOMING SUMMITS

REF: SECSTATE 148530

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (U) This is an action message. Action request contained in paragraph 3.

12. (C) Japan will continue to monitor the situation in Burma closely and is committed to fully cooperating with UN Burma Envoy Ibrahim Gambari, MOFA First Southeast Asia Division Principal Deputy Director Atsushi Kuwabara told Embassy Tokyo on October 29. It is important for the international community to send a clear message to Burma regarding the ongoing crackdown on the democracy movement, and to highlight the importance of the Burmese regime fully cooperating with UN Burma Envoy Gambari, he stated. While the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not yet discussed upcoming summits in Asia and the possibility of disinviting, or limiting the level of, Burmese attendees, Japan is unlikely to support such action because it is important for countries to continue dialogue with Burmese leaders, Kuwabara explained. Tokyo understands that it is not "business as usual" with Burma, but it is better for countries to send that message to the Burmese regime bilaterally, and it will not help achieve our shared goals to limit Burma's participation in upcoming summits such as ASEAN. Kuwabara reiterated that Japan will continue to monitor the situation closely, and will continue to support Gambari's efforts.

13. (C) Action Requested: Kuwabara requested information on whether the United States will seek the non-inclusion, or will seek to "disinvite," Burmese officials from future international meetings. He also requested information on whether the United States has participated in previous meetings with ASEAN that included Burmese participants and, if so, what these participants' ranks were.
SCHIEFFER